(iv) Increasing the inter-state and inter-regional power transfer by construction of missing transmission links and system improvement and finally development of the National Grid.

(v) Coordinated operation of Hydro, Thermal, Nuclear and Gas turbine power stations in the regional power system.

(vi) Speedy implementation of reform process in the power sector.

(vii) Early stabilization of newly commissioned generating units.

Measures to attract FDI in power sector

4337. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether ABN-AMRO Bank has presented a note on "Measures to attract FDI in power sector in India";

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto; and

(c) what are Government's views about opening of transmission and distribution to private sector either before the generation or simultaneously with generation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) and (b) The Government of India has taken a number of steps to attract Foreign Direct Investment in the Power Sector in India. Some of these measures, *inter-alia*, include:

> providing for automatic approval for foreign equity in projects for electric generation, transmission and distribution and permitting foreign equity participation up to 100% on the automatic approval route without any limit.
>
> minimizing the number of clearances required to be obtained for the purpose of appraisal of the private power projects by the Central Electricity Authority (CEA).

raising the capital cost limits up to which techno-economic clearance of CEA is not required.

setting of the Crisis Resolution Group to expedite clearances, remove bottlenecks and to resolve the 'last mile' problems in achieving financial closure.

enacting the Electricity Regulatory Commission Act, 1998 which enabled setting up of the Central Electricity Regulatory Commission and the State Electricity Regulatory Commissions to fix tariffs in an open, objective and transparent manner.

the Electricity Laws Amendment Act, 1998 was enacted to make transmission a distinct activity which would enable private sector investment.

delegating more powers to State Governments for environmental clearance.

Interactions are held from time to time between representatives of the Government of India, Central Power Sector Undertakings and Commercial/Investment Banks which are providing advisory and financial services, to elicit views and share experiences in the Indian power sector and concerning the various policy initiatives of the Government. ABN-AMRO Bank was one of the five Banks that made a presentation during one such interaction organised by the Power Finance Corporation on March 8, 2001.

(c) The Government of India gives high priority to balanced development of generation, transmission and distribution of electricity. Investments in generation will be viable only when adequate investments are made in transmission and distribution so that power can be evacuated and efficiency levels in distribution in terms of

billing and collection are raised. There is, therefore, a clear need to attract private investments in transmission and distribution simultaneously with investment in generation.

Power generation through various sources

4338. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total power generated through various sources in the country during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) whether the National Thermal Power Corporation made a significant contribution in power generation in these years;

(c) if so, the year-wise break-up thereof; and

(d) the power generation plan drawn-up by the NTPC for the remaining years of Ninth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) to (c) The details of total power generated through various sources in the country along with contribution in generation by NTPC during 1998-99, 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 are given below:

Category	Generation (Million Units)		
	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-2001
Thermal (including NTPC)	353662	386787	40820
Nuclear	12015	13267	16896
Hydro	82690	80628	74346
Total	448367	480682	499450
NTPC	113756	124414	135444